

Karsten Contag
Preliminary Amendment
Page 6

REMARKS

Claims 18-34 are pending in the application. Claims 18-19, 21-29, and 31-34 stand rejected. Claims 20 and 30 stand objected to.

The section 112 rejection of claims 21-28 is respectfully traversed. Claims 21-28 as amended are submitted to be definite. Accordingly, it is requested that the 112 rejection of claims 21-28 be withdrawn.

The 102(e) rejection of claims 18-19, 21, 24-25, 27, 29, and 31-34 as being anticipated by Conde et al. is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 recites *inter alia* "a first optical system configured to direct a beam, emitted by the radiation source, onto the optical waveguide from a first side, wherein the first optical system generates a beam profile of the beam whose extent in the transverse direction with respect to a longitudinal axis of the optical waveguide corresponds to at least twice a diameter of the optical waveguide". Conde et al. do not teach or suggest "a beam profile of the beam whose extent in the transverse direction with respect to a longitudinal axis of the optical waveguide corresponds to at least twice a diameter of the optical waveguide". Rather, Conde et al. state "This is followed by a heating stage (FIG. 4C), which can be carried out by laser, electric arc, or filaments would (sic, wound) in turns on a cylinder with a diameter larger than the diameter of the elements to be assembled, or by any other known heating method making it possible to reach the glass transition point of the glass. After cooling, the fibre-substrate assembly is strongly assembled. The laser heating method is the most adaptable for each particular case." Conde et al. neither teaches nor suggests "a beam profile of the beam whose extent in the transverse direction with respect to a longitudinal axis of the optical waveguide corresponds to at least twice a diameter of

Karsten Contag
Preliminary Amendment
Page 7

the optical waveguide". For at least that reason it is submitted that claim 18 is patentable over Conde et al.

Claims 19, 21, 24-25, 27, 29, and 31-34 depend from independent claim 18 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reason. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the 102(e) rejection of claims 18-19, 21, 24-25, 27, 29, and 31-34 be withdrawn.

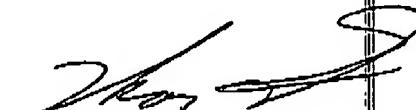
Karsten Contag
Preliminary Amendment
Page 8

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection(s) and the rejection(s) to the claims and to reconsider the application. This Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action and places the application in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowability for the pending claims. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned directly to further the prosecution of any remaining issues, and thereby expedite allowance of the application.

This Amendment results in no more independent or total claims than paid for previously. Accordingly, no fee for excess claims is believed to be due. However, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fee due in connection with the filing of this response, including any excess claims fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If any other fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not already accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should likewise be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2167. Any overpayment should be credited to Deposit Account No. 19-2167.

Respectfully submitted,



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